



Easton (PA) Branch

The Easton Edition

Easton, PA Branch Newsletter

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, March 15

Branch Meeting

Evening At The Williams Center

Board Meeting

Monday, March 3, 7 pm

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2025

I prefer someone who burns the flag and then wraps themselves up in the constitution over someone who burns the Constitution and wraps themselves up in the flag.

Molly Ivins

Evening At The Williams Center and Tapas Event Tapas at 5:30, Performance at 8 pm.

Join us on March 28th as we celebrate our Evening At The Williams Center, an event we use to raise money for our scholarship fund. As this is our only fundraiser this year, we encourage you to come, enjoy the company of fellow AAUW members and friends, watch the amazing dance company Flamenco Vivo and make an additional donation to our scholarship fund.

Prior to the performance, we will gather at the College Hill home of Phyllis and Ellis Finger for tapas as we enjoy the company, the food, and the always stimulating conversation.

Flamenco Vivo has commissioned Patricia Guerrero, internationally acclaimed flamenco dancer-choreographer and winner of the 2021 Spain National Dance Award, to create QUINTO ELEMENTO (Fifth Element), a new evening-length work set to an original score of live music by GRAMMY®-nominated composer Jose Luis de la Paz. QUINTO ELEMENTO explores ether, that which we do not see yet is ever-present, the essence that makes up the space around us. By drawing on her deep knowledge of traditional flamenco structure and daringly deconstructing its rules, Guerrero seeks to extract the essence of flamenco itself, its invisible fifth element, and make it tangible to audiences.

Tickets are \$30. A portion of each AAUW ticket goes towards local scholarships. Spouses and friends are welcome. Please reserve tickets by March 15.

Please send reservations by March 15 to: Rosemary Baker.
Make checks payable to: AAUW Easton Branch

RSVP form on page 4.

From the Presidents' Pen

As I write this, March is almost here. I'm looking forward to warmer weather, being able to walk outside without worrying about slipping on the ice, and...thinking about what our branch is doing into March and beyond.

March is Women's History Month and I encourage you to learn all you can about one particular woman while supporting all women in their endeavor of choice. We are honoring the Nurture Nature Center as the recipient of the Gateway to Equity Award. In past years, this award was given on March 8th, International Women's Day. Planning is still underway for the award ceremony so check your inbox for more information in the days ahead.

Another March happening is the opening of the film **Rulebreakers**, a film about a team of Afghan women in a robotic competition. The film will be screened at the Regal Northampton theater beginning March 7th. **I need something uplifting** and you might too. Care to join me? Give me a call and we'll set a date.

We'll be ending March with tapas at the lovely home of Phyllis and Ellis Finger on March 28 at 5:30 pm followed by our Evening At The Williams Center for an 8 pm flamenco performance. You do not have to attend both events. **You are encouraged to donate for our scholarships and Girls Recognition Night.**

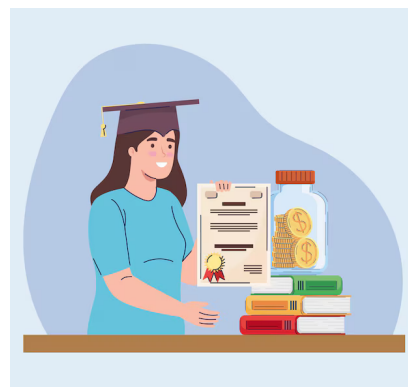
In case you missed it, several of us have signed our strong support to a letter to national.

You can read this letter at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Heqb0e3sz3A9Y6GaON085AkHFveRia7uFmhyxmv18o/edit?tab=t.0>

Our **Girls Recognition Night** committee is busy planning this very special evening, held once again at the Nurture Nature Center on Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 pm. We still need help with refreshments, engaging students and making them feel comfortable, doing the same with panelists, and registering parents, teachers and other guests as well as a volunteer at the membership table. Volunteering at or just attending this celebration gives meaning to the AAUW mission.

Our annual **Scholarship Dessert** is on Wednesday, May 21, 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Easton on Spring Garden Street. Since the church is a polling place for the primary elections this year, the day needed to be moved from Tuesday to Wednesday. We will be honoring our five scholarship recipients (\$3000 each) as well as our Outstanding Woman, Member Making A Difference and Named Gift Honoree.

Fran



AAUW PUBLIC POLICY CONVERSATIONS – MARCH 2025

A penny. It doesn't sound like much, but when it comes to the gender wage gap, a penny is a big deal. The pay gap just got worse. With EQUAL PAY DAY in March, new data shows that in 2023, for the first time, year-round in two decades, the gender wage gap widened significantly. A November 2024 report in HerMoney.com found between 2022 and 2023, the wage gap grew by 1 cent for women working full-time, year round. "This is the first statistically significant annual decrease in the female-to-male earnings ratio since 2003," the U.S. Census Bureau noted. While experts say COVID (which forced many women to step away from their careers) could partially be to blame, there are a number of other factors at play. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell said, "There's no single explanation for why progress is stalled. The reasons for the pay gap are complex and impact women very differently based on their age, race and location."

The wage gap impacts women at all career stages, but the effects are most profound in RETIREMENT. On all three components of the 'three-legged-stool' of retirement security – Social Security, pension and savings – women fall short, largely due to account balances. As a result women have 70% of the income that men have during retirement. Mandating pay data collection by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was begun under the Obama administration in an effort to address pay disparities. Compensation, for the first time, would be reported by gender in each job by pay ranges. The first ground-breaking reports including the new pay data were issued in 2018 and 2019, representing a giant-leap—but did not last. The new EEOC requirements were promptly scrapped by President Donald Trump's Executive Order in his first term.

Now, In addition to President Trump's new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) just crippling any EEOC activity by immediately firing its Board Members, a slew of new 2025 Executive Orders promotes eradication of any and all Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. This flies in the face of female gains in representation on corporate boards. A Bloomberg Intelligence 12/9/24 report found "Female representation in the boardroom almost tripled with the most gender diverse companies delivering higher shareholder returns compared to male-dominated boards." Women made up 26% of boards in 2023, up from 9% in 2010. A new Bloomberg study found that the top 20% of companies with female board membership returned 2% to 5% more than the bottom 20% in developed markets. At the end of the day, higher performance is linked to higher diversity. Nevertheless, President Trump pledged to create a cabinet hostile to diversity initiatives.

In the new Trump administration DOGE seeks to dismantle the Department of Education. In order to apply for and participate in federal financial aid programs, students must submit sensitive personal information to the Education Department and authorize access to their tax records. The Department retains this information for millions of current and former students and their family members. Under the Privacy Act, the Internal Revenue Code, and the Department's own regulations, access to these records is strictly controlled. Access may be used only for specified purposes. Yet Elon Musk's DOGE squad did get access to the computer systems that house these records. Public Citizen, representing the University of California Student Association, has sued to block DOGE from perpetrating a massive, dangerous, unprecedented invasion of privacy. At this writing a judge has issued a temporary restraining order against what DOGE is attempting at the Department of Education. The country is in uncharted waters and opposition in many forms is required.

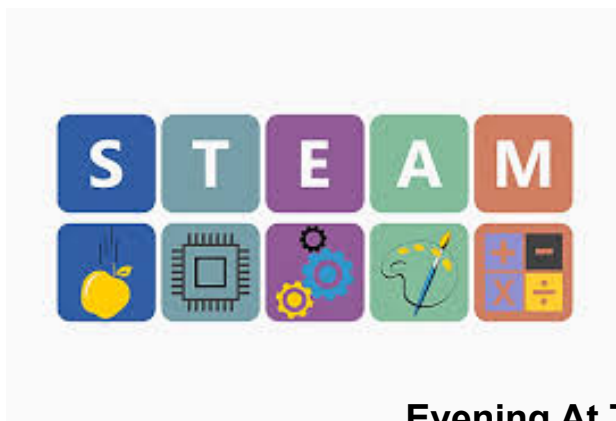
Lilly Gioia

Volunteers Needed for GRN

Girls Recognition Night is taking place on May 1st at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton. We need volunteers to help with specific duties - seating the girls and their parents, handing out programs and name tags, helping with refreshments and clean up.

This is a special event honoring 7th grade girls for their excellence in the STEAM areas. Please consider volunteering for one of the duties listed above. It's always fun to feel the excitement of the girls and see the pride in their parents' eyes as their daughters receive their certificates and a small gift.

Contact Fran Kennedy. and say YES!



Evening At The Williams Center

Please send reservations by March 15 to: Rosemary Baker. Make checks payable to: AAUW Easton Branch

Order Form: Evening At The Williams Center March 28, 2025

Name _____

Tickets for Flamenco Vivo _____ (qty) @ \$30 each

Additional Donation for Scholarship Fund _____

Total of check enclosed: _____ (payable to AAUW Easton Branch)

Will you be attending Tapas prior to the performance? Y or N

AAUW Easton Branch Meeting

February 1, 2025 at the Palmer Library

Fran Kennedy, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 1:20pm. There were 6 members and one guest present.

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The Nominating committee has met and is working on filling the slate.

Girls Recognition Night is May 1. There is a team of people working on this. They meet the second Monday of every month. The Keynote speaker has been secured. Panelists are needed. Volunteers are needed for the night of the event.

Our next meeting is our Evening at Williams Center on Friday March 28. Phyllis Finger is hosting Tapas prior to the event.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

Letter to Gloria Blackwell from AAUW-PA and 21 AAUW branches across PA

Dear CEO Blackwell,

As AAUW faces the escalating assaults on equity, please know the membership of AAUW Pennsylvania stands ready for an unrelenting fight.

AAUW Chair Cheryl Sorokin stated emphatically that we are a leader in equity for women and girls and need to ACT: "We're going to need to engage in advocacy at all levels. Speaking out against injustice and working to advance policies that support and empower women and girls."

Historically, AAUW stood strong for the right to vote, for expanding equity initiatives nationally, and for endorsing strong measures embodied in the Biden Administration Title IX regulations. All of these victories are under attack. Our members are looking to AAUW National for the path to push back on these concerted efforts to eliminate the progress women and girls have made.

AAUW Pennsylvania supports moving boldly forward, recognizing the risk, and knowing the risk of doing nothing is even greater.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Hall, President
Sandra Miller, Public Policy Chair
AAUW PA State Board

In Memoriam

The family of Mildred McFadden wishes to inform the Easton chapter of AAUW of her passing on 2/9/25. She was honored to have achieved lifetime member status. Most importantly she enjoyed her time on the international committee as well as hosting many lunch meetings and forming lasting friendships.

**Response from Gloria Blackwell to
Cindy Hall, AAUW-PA President**

Dear Cindy and AAUW PA Leaders:

Thank you so much for your support. I admit that I was very moved when I read it. The nightmare that we are currently experiencing is unreal and we appreciate you all having our backs. We know how much our members tireless efforts have helped to move our mission forward and these days it will be needed more than ever.

Our National Staff are navigating this whirlwind, recommending action and helping us keep our issues front and center to continue the fight for equity and access to higher education for women. We are not backing down and appreciate your resolve to stand with us!

Onward,

~Gloria

Celebrate Women's History Month



Frances Perkins (born **Fannie Coralie Perkins**; April 10, 1880^{[1][2]} – May 14, 1965) was an American workers-rights advocate who served as the fourth United States Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945, the longest serving in that position. A member of the Democratic Party, Perkins was the first woman ever to serve in a presidential cabinet. As a loyal supporter of her longtime friend, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, she helped make labor issues important in the emerging New Deal coalition. She was one of two Roosevelt cabinet members to remain in office for his entire presidency (the other being Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes).

Perkins' most important role came in developing a policy for social security in 1935. She also helped form government policy for working with labor unions, although some union leaders distrusted her. Perkins' Labor Department helped to mediate strikes by way of the United States Conciliation Service. She dealt with numerous labor issues during World War II, when skilled labor was vital to the economy and women were moving into jobs formerly held by men.^[3]

In 1933, Roosevelt summoned Perkins to ask her to join his cabinet. Perkins presented Roosevelt with a long list of labor programs for which she would fight, from Social Security to minimum wage. "Nothing like this has ever been done in the United States before," she told Roosevelt. "You know that, don't you?"^[33] Agreeing to back her, Roosevelt nominated Perkins as Secretary of Labor. The nomination was met with support from the National League of Women Voters and the Women's Party.^[34] The American Federation of Labor criticized the selection of Perkins because of a perceived lack of ties to labor.^[34]

As secretary, Perkins oversaw the Department of Labor. Perkins went on to hold the position for 12 years, longer than any other Secretary of Labor and the fourth longest of any cabinet secretary.^[35] She also became the first woman to hold a cabinet position in the United States, thus she became the first woman to enter the presidential line of succession.^[36] The selection of a woman to the cabinet had been rumored in the four previous administrations, with Roosevelt being the first to follow through.^[37] Roosevelt had witnessed Perkins's work firsthand during their time in Albany.^[37] With few exceptions, President Roosevelt consistently supported the goals and programs of Secretary Perkins.

Perkins played a role in the New Deal by helping to write legislation. As chair of the President's Committee on Economic Security, she was involved in all aspects of its advisory reports, including the Civilian Conservation Corps and the She-She-She Camps.^[10] Her most important contribution was to help design the Social Security Act of 1935.^{[39][40]}

Perkins created the Immigration and Naturalization Service.^[41] She sought to implement liberal immigration policies but some of her efforts experienced pushback, especially in Congress.

Information copied from Wikipedia.

Interest Groups

The Easton Branch has several interest groups created to stimulate discussions, encourage networking and support the community. If you have ideas for additional groups, let us know. Every group looks forward to new participants. Call if you are interested in joining a group.

Book Discussion

Chair: Susan McNamara



March 17, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Carol Inman

Death Comes to the Archbishop
by Willa Cather

International Relations

Chair: Fran Kennedy



March 25, 2:00 pm
Hostess: TBD

Topic: Women Leaders in Africa

Bridge

Chair: Rosemary Baker



Contact Rosemary for date and time. New members welcome.

Out To Lunch

Chair: Claire Degnan



All members welcome.
Date: TBD
Location: TBD

Mah Jongg

Chair: Randi Blauth



March 10, 1:30 p.m.
March 24, 1:30 pm
Hostesses: Rosemary, Randi

Tapas Dining

Chair: Phyllis Finger



Date: March 28, 5:30 pm
Hostess: Phyllis Finger

Stitch and Be

Chair: Toni Hoffman



March 6, 2:30 p.m.
Hostess: Susan McNamara

Science

Chair: Susan McNamara



Date: March 20, 1:30 pm
Hostess: Susan McNamara
Topic: **The Song of the Cell** by Siddharta Mukherjee
Part 2: The One and the Many
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Walking Group

Chair: Fran Kennedy
Every Friday 9 am

American Association of University Women

AAUW National	800.326.2289	www.aauw.org
Easton Branch		easton-pa.aauw.net
Co-Presidents	Lisa Spitale, Fran Kennedy	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/
Membership Team	Carolyn Conners	easton-pa.aauw.net/membership/
Easton Edition	Toni Hoffman	easton-pa.aauw.net/contact/

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to members to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national orientation, disability, or class.

The AAUW Funds include the Educational Opportunities Funds (formerly a part of the AAUW Educational Foundation) which help us to advance equity for women and girls through programs such as American and International Fellowships and Community Action grants.

AAUW Funds also include the Legal Advocacy Fund which provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sexual discrimination, the Leadership Programs Fund (formerly the AAUW Leadership and Training Institute), the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and the Public Policy Fund.

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